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While we are considering the antecedents of Handel we cannot
 miss out Reinhard Keiser, for ~~he~~ he was really
 a remarkable personality in his way, & did a vast
 deal in the direction of establishing a genuine German
 Opera - And might have succeeded if it had not
 been for all the silly confusion of the small & big
 courts of Germany thinking it was the right thing
 to patronize Italian Opera after his time. He
 was born in 1673 at a place near Lippig; and
 seems to have begun operations with a Pastoral called
 Idmene at the Court of Brunswick in 1692 - which
 was successful & led to his producing his first Opera



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Basilio there in the same year. Then he moved to Rome
in 1694 and became head of the Opera House. His first
Opera there was 'Irene' in 1697. He is said to have
written no less than 116. They had quite a German
character about them. He had a considerable gift
of time; (and wrote delightful ballet music) and
considerable sense of dramatic effect. Handel joined
his Orchestra in 1703 as Violino di ripieno, and afterwards
became accompanist - and produced his first Opera there
as we shall have occasion to observe later. Keiser
influenced him a good deal, & ~~even~~ he even did
him the honour to appropriate one of his tunes.

Keiser had the reputation of being a man of somewhat
disorderly life - but he was certainly a man of
no little genius. He wrote some sacred music - the
latter part of his life, including some Passions, which have something
of the genuine Germanic ring about them. He died in 1739.

